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PATENT

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Trudi Thompson

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Applicant: Williams et al.

Serial No.: 09/553223

Filed: 4/20/2000

Title: A COMBINED RAPID ANTI-MICROBIAL SUSCEPTIBILITY ASSAY & MICROORGANISM IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

Group Art Unit: 1651

Examiner: H. Gutman

Docket No.: 14598.34

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated April 17, 2001, Applicant responds as follows:

In the Claims

Amend claims 22 and 26 as follows:

a1 22. A method for simultaneously determining a microorganism's identify and susceptibility to an antimicrobial agent comprising the steps of:

- suspending and homogeneously mixing a volume of microorganism-containing sample into an aqueous medium to prepare an inoculum;
- admixing said inoculum with growth supporting medium to form a test sample;
- introducing a predetermined amount of said test sample into a first receptacle within a solid support;
- introducing a predetermined amount of said test sample into a second receptacle within a solid support;
- admixing a first assay reagent with the first sample in said first receptacle to form a homogenous suspension prior to conducting a first assay;

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